



News Release

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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IDWR Expedites The Water Right Transfer Process For Acreage To Be Enrolled In CREP

IDWR has instituted a new policy to fast track water right transfers for landowners in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer who enroll in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in order to encourage voluntary curtailment. This program will speed the water right transfer process that normally takes from 6 months to a year or more to just 90 days in many circumstances making enrollment in CREP a more viable option for many landowners.

CREP, which is administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), is a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers safeguard ground and surface water by retiring land from agricultural production. Water that would normally be used to irrigate can instead be conserved. It is a cost effective option that provides farmers and ranchers with a sound financial package for conserving and enhancing natural resources.

CREP contracts require a 10 to 15 year commitment, the land must have a valid water right, and the land must be owned for at least one year prior to enrollment to be eligible. IDWR would also verify that a water right transfer application and a CREP application were filed simultaneously before expediting a transfer application.

"Our goal is to encourage as many landowners in the Eastern Snake River Plain as possible to enroll in the CREP program before the end of year deadline. This is to promote voluntary curtailment for aquifer management rather than mandatory curtailment in times of shortage," said David Tuthill, director of IDWR.

More information about enrolling ESPA acreage in the CREP program can be obtained by contacting the Eastern Office of IDWR in Idaho Falls by calling 208-525-7161 or the Southern Office in Twin Falls at 208-736-3033.

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